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NEWS AND NOTES

Cornell University has received an appropriation for three new buildings for the New York State College of Agriculture.

Dr. C. B. Plowright, a distinguished English naturalist, who devoted much of his time to the study of fungi, died early in May, at the age of fifty-one years.

Dr. E. Linhard and Dr. Kølpin Ravn, of Denmark, are visiting America to observe methods of forage crop production and applied plant pathology.

An international American scientific congress will be held in Buenos Aires from July 10 to 25, in celebration of the centenary of the revolution of May, 1810.

Dr. E. P. Meinicke has been called to Washington as expert in the Office of Investigations in Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry. This office has undertaken a vigorous campaign against forest diseases.

A very important paper by A. Potebnia on the microscopic fungi of middle Russia, containing many species not previously described and many figures, appeared in the February number of *Annales Mycologici.*

A list of the lichens of Ohio, by J. C. Hambleton, appeared in the *Ohio Naturalist* for January, 1910.

A. Sartory has investigated two species of *Chanterel, C. tubaeformis* Fr. and *C. aurantiacus* Wulf., supposed to be poisonous, and has come to the conclusion that they are harmless (Bull. Soc. Myc. Fr. **25**: 253, 254. 1909).

Mr. E. Bartholomew, of Stockton, Kansas, visited the Garden on June 3 and 4.

Dr. J. E. Kirkwood, research scholar at the Garden at various times from 1899 to 1904, has been appointed professor of botany and forestry at the University of Montana.

Dr. Charles E. Fairman, of Lyndonville, New York, spent two weeks at the Garden during the latter part of May, consulting the collection of Lophiostomaceae.

In the *Thesaurus* recently completed by Lindau & Sydow, there are 1710 pages, containing about 30,000 titles of books and articles on mycological subjects.

A number of new species of fungi from the Philippine Islands are described by H. & P. Sydow in *Annales Mycologici* for February, 1910.

A key to the New England species of *Cladonia*, and a list of the species of the Cladoniaceae occurring in New England, prepared by L. W. Riddle, appeared in *Rhodora* for November, 1909.

In the *Plant World* for September, 1909, V. W. Pool discusses the present status of plant pathology; the article being based upon replies to a circular letter to a number of men prominent in this field.

At the recent Brussels' congress, it was decided to take the date of publication of Fries' *Systema Mycologicum* as the starting point for the nomenclature of most of the fungi, and to go back to 1753 for the lichens, and to 1801 for certain other groups.

Professor H. J. Banker, of De Pauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, stopped at the Garden two weeks in June on his way to visit the principal European herbaria in preparation of a monograph of the Hydnaceae to appear in North American Flora.

Mr. H. S. Jackson, research scholar at the Garden in 1907, has been appointed professor of botany and plant pathology in the Oregon Agricultural College. Mr. Jackson has been since August, 1909, research assistant in plant pathology in the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station.

The Torrey Botanical Club has arranged a special excursion for fungi to Cold Spring, Long Island, for August 6. The train leaves the foot of East 34th Street (Long Island R. R.) at 9:00 A. M. Returning trains leave at 4:49 and 6:51 P. M. Cost of trip, about two dollars. Guides, Mr. Seaver and Mr. Dodge.

Dr. William J. Gies, consulting chemist of the New York Botanical Garden, will conduct investigations of various species of poisonous fungi during the coming year. Contributions of specimens are desired from as many localities as possible. They should be collected in quantity and dried in the sun or in a current of warm air. Descriptive notes are of value for purposes of determination.

An illustrated work on the poisonous plants of Germany, by Dr. P. Esser, director of the Cologne Botanic Garden, has recently appeared. The fungi included in this work are: *Amanita phalloides, A. muscaria, A. pantherina, Russula emetica, R. foetens, Lactarius torminosus, Boletus lupinus, B. Satanas, Phallus impudicus, Scleroderma vulgare,* and *Claviceps purpurea.*

The American Phytopathological Society at its last meeting appointed a committee consisting of F. L. Stevens, H. von Schrenk, E. M. Freeman, W. A. Orton, and G. P. Clinton, to draw up rules and make recommendations concerning the common names of plant diseases, the object being to secure uniformity in their usage.

Leaf-blight of the plane-tree (*Gleosporium nervisequum*) was very conspicuous this season on the grounds of the Garden from the middle of May to the end of June, the continued rainy weather being especially favorable to the development of the fungus. This severe attack, following so closely the epidemics of 1907 and 1908, will undoubtedly kill or severely injure many of the smaller branches of the plane-trees in this region.

Bulletin 118 of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, contains the results of four years of research in "Culture Studies of Species of *Penicillium*" by Dr. Charles Thom, mycologist in cheese investigation. Twenty-seven species and three varieties are described in this paper. In addition to morphological characters, the physiological effects upon nutrient media have been found to be reliable characters in separating some species and in such cases are introduced into the diagnoses of the species. The work is illustrated by thirty-six figures.

James B. Rorer, mycologist of the Board of Agriculture of Trinidad, has recently been investigating several diseases that threaten the cacao, cocoanut, and banana industries of the American tropics (see Bull. Trinidad Dep. Agric. no. 64. 1910, and Trinidad Agric. Soc. Paper 412). Mr. Rorer believes that thorough sanitation, by burning in the dry season and burying in rainy weather, is the best means of combatting the bud-rot disease of cocoanut palms; and he recommends the passage of an ordinance compelling all owners of cocoanut plantations to destroy trees affected with this disease.

An extended report of the Boston meeting of the American Phytopathological Society, by Dr. C. L. Shear, secretary, appeared in *Science,* May 13 and May 20, 1910. The Society was organized with 130 charter members, and 50 of these were present at the meeting. Three sessions were devoted to the reading of papers, abstracts of which appear in the secretary's report. Among the many interesting things brought forward, the following may be mentioned:

Puccinia Malvacearum on the hollyhock may be readily communicated by artificial inoculation to *Malva rotundifolia,* or *vice versa.*—Malnutrition diseases of cabbage, spinach, and other vegetables in trucking sections along the Atlantic coast, apparently due to abnormal quantities of acids in the soil, may be prevented by the application of calcium carbonate.—The smuts of the *Tilletia* group appear to be more nearly related to the rusts than those of the *Ustilago* group.—The present range of the chestnut canker, *Diaporthe parasitica,* is from Saratoga County, N. Y. and Suffolk County, Mass., to Westmoreland County, Pa. and Greenbriar and Preston Counties, W. Va.—A very large part of the potato rot in the United States is due to *Bacillus phytophthorus* Appel.

The Central American banana blight, which has become very serious in recent years, may be retarded in its early stages by replacing diseased plants with healthy ones, but the hope of continuing the banana industry in affected districts lies in the substitution of an immune Chinese variety for the Martinique variety now commonly cultivated.—Lettuce sclerotiniose may probably be eradicated by the early destruction of affected plants, thus preventing the formation of sclerotia.—An anthracnose of red clover (*Gleosporium caulivorum*) spreads rapidly during warm, showery weather when succulent growth is produced.—It is probable that ascospore infection is, in most cases, largely responsible for early attacks of apple scab on the leaves and petioles.—It has been found that *Polystictus hirsutus* Fr. may slowly attack the cambium of mountain ash, gradually killing the tree.—It is possible that there are two banana diseases in tropical America confused, one due to bacteria and the other to a *Fusarium.*

The appearance of *Mycogone perniciosa* Magnus in mushroom beds in Pennsylvania introduces a serious menace to mushroom growing in America.—*Phytophthora Cactorum,* long known to ginseng growers in Japan, has appeared in Ohio and New York, and has been successfully isolated and inoculated into ginseng plants.—Floret sterility of wheat in the Southwest is largely due to rusts and associated fungi, chiefly an undescribed species of *Stemphylium,* distributed by minute insects and the wind at the period of flowering.—A new disease of the tomato plant, due to *Bacterium* (?) *michiganense* E. F. Smith, has been found prevalent in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Mich.—The use of sulfur to control potato scab in California has resulted in injury to the tubers, producing sunken, dark spots 5–30 mm. in diameter.—A stem-rot of beans due to *Rhizoctonia* has been observed near Oneida, N. Y.

The Genus Sphaerosoma.—Prof. W. A. Setchell, of the University of California, has recently published a paper on "The Genus Sphaerosoma" (Univ. of Calif. Pub. 4: 107–120, *pl. 15*). This paper is the outgrowth of the study of specimens of a new fungus collected in California which at first seemed to belong to the genus *Sphaerosoma*. The following is a brief synopsis of his conclusions:

The genus *Sphaerosoma* was founded by Klotzsch in 1839, *Sphaerosoma fuscescens*, an echinulate-hyaline-spored species being the type of the genus. A second species, *Sphaerosoma ostiolatum*, was described by Tulasne in 1851. This species is characterized by the brown-bluntly-tuberculate ascospores. In 1854, Zobel in the sixth volume of Corda's Icones Fungorum established a new genus, *Sphaerozone*, for *Sphaerosoma ostiolatum* Tul., which was described under the name *Sphaerozone Tulasnei* Zobel. In 1885, Hesse described a third species, *Sphaerosoma fragile*. In 1903, Hennings described, under the name *Ruhlandiella berolinensis*, a fungus which he considered close to *Sphaerosoma*, with reticulate-verrucose spores. In 1905, Seaver described a fourth species of *Sphaerosoma* under the name of *Sphaerosoma echinulatum*. In 1905, Rehm distributed (Ascom. *1601*) specimens from upper Silesia under the name of *Sphaerosoma echinulatum* Seaver. In 1908, Rouppert described a fourth species of *Sphaerosoma* under the name of *Sphaerosoma Janczewskianum*, and in 1909 published a monograph of the genus *Sphaerosoma* in which he recognized four species as belonging to the genus *Sphaerosoma*, one of which has reticulate spores, one verrucose spores, and two echinulate spores.

Setchell believes that the genus *Sphaerosoma* should be restricted to the echinulate-spored species, *Sphaerosoma fuscescens* Klotzsch (the type of the genus) and *Sphaerosoma echinulatum* Seaver, and that, since the European form of *Sphaerosoma echinulatum* differs from the American in having shorter and more slender spore-spines, it may come to be regarded as a distinct species or may be only a geographical variety of the Iowa species.

The genus *Sphaerozone* Zobel should include the brown-verrucose-spored species, *Sphaerozone ostiolatum* (Tul.) Setchell. The new combination is published by Setchell, since, although the genus was based on this species, it was included by Zobel under the name *Sphaerozone Tulasnei.*

The genus *Ruhlandiella* was described by Hennings and based on a brown-reticulate-spored species, and, as stated above, was thought by Hennings to be closely related to *Sphaerosoma.* The Californian specimens are made the basis of a new species belonging to this genus, which is published by Setchell under the name *Ruhlandiella hesperia.*

From his study of the specimens of *Sphaerosoma* (in its restricted sense), Setchell believes that the plants of the genus are hemicleistocarpous and therefore belong more properly with the Pezizineae than with the Helvellineae, as has formerly been thought, and, since the plants have a weakly developed peridium, he suggests a possible relationship with the Pyronemaceae rather than with the Pezizaceae—F. J. SEAVER.